(6) Whether proper accounts of income and expenditure in each Devaswom were kept.

In conclusion, the Member added that it would be well if the management of the *Ooranma* Devaswoms was placed under the supervision of Government and the Tahsildar asked to inspect the Devaswoms and their accounts once or twice in the year and initial the accounts.

VI.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

(2) Medical Relief—(*Continued*).

110. Reorganisation of the Ayurveda Department.

Mr. N. Narayana Panikkar (Member, Thiruvalla Taluk) dwelt upon the peculiar virtues of the Ayurvedic system of treatment and said that it was not sufficient if the pupils in the Ayurvedic school studied a good deal of theory by rote. The Ayurvedic School should be improved with facilities for the performance of surgical operations. If that was not done, there was no use in maintaining the institution. The reforms proposed by the Member were:—

(1) Lecturers versed in Ayurvedic and English systems of Medicine should be appointed in the Ayurvedic School.

(2) There should be a Central Ayurvedic Hospital for treatment of general diseases with provision for surgical operations, practice of midwifery and other forms of up-to-date treatment.

(3) There should be a factory for the preparation of all kinds of medicines and drugs, such as tinctures, syrups, essences, &c., and a medical laboratory for research.

(4) There should be provision for the training of women and encouragement in the shape of scholarships should be given to them.

(5) Class work should not last for more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

(6) Examinations should be held and those coming out successful should be given degrees and diplomas.

(7) Grant-in-aid should be given to the degree-holders only.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

111. Establishment of an Ayurveda Patasala in Central Travancore.

Mr. N. Padmanabhan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) prayed that a well-equipped Ayurvedic institution be started in some locality in Central Travancore. The Member also suggested that the Director of Ayurveda be ordered to make an enquiry as to how many candidates passed from the Trivandrum Ayurvedic School till now and how many of them followed the profession.

Dewan's reply.—The question of reorganising the Ayurveda Patasala at Trivandrum is under the consideration of Government. The other suggestion of the Member is noted.

VII EDUCATION.—(*Continued*).

112. Education.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that, though a good deal had been accomplished as a result of the working of the voluntary principle of education, there were some defects. In the first place, the strength in the Vernacular schools of the State in all classes had been so alarmingly rising that a large number of youths were being turned out every year with a fund of literary instruction the only use of which was to make its recipients aspire for appointments in the Government service. He was not oblivious of the fact that Government were steadily endeavouring to impart agricultural and industrial education to the boys and girls and that 6 foreign scholarships had also been awarded. But what those scholarship-holders were going to do on their return was a problem to be satisfactorily solved. The scientific knowledge of those young men should be utilized

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to the material advantage of the State. The Special Officer, Industrial Survey, it was mentioned in the opening address, had been working in the direction of forming Development Committees and collecting statistics, both taluk-war and *pakuthi-war*. It would be more useful to ascertain the prices of raw materials, the wages of labour and the conditions of markets ; perhaps the Special Officer had already done that work. But what was now required was to open small manufactories in suitable places where the handiwork of the ignorant artisan could be improved by expert advice and assistance. The Government might even start such manufactories and work them with profit. It was in those State-guided and State-controlled manufactories that vocational training should be imparted and not in the ordinary Vernacular schools where the theoretical industrial education given for an hour or two was not likely to be sufficiently advantageous. It was experience that was wanted in arts and crafts. The Member earnestly suggested that, after obtaining a working knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic, the boys should be given a steady course in industrial training.

Secondly, primary education should be made compulsory. Compulsion in primary education could do more than what the directing and controlling officers could do. The Pakuthi Committees existed only on paper. The cost of education was, no doubt, high and the result was disappointing literary instruction. It was time that Government thought of retrenchment in other directions and diverted the funds thus obtained to the Educational Department. A levy of income-tax would augment the revenues of the State. The Member protested against the levy of an educational cess before retrenchment was tried and before taxation was more equitably adjusted.

The Member then complained of the poor inspection work done and thought that retrenchment was possible with the abolition of two Assistant Inspectors of English Schools.

Speaking about Collegiate education, the Member referred, in complimentary terms, to the generous action taken by Government in removing the loud complaint about the admission of students in His Highness the Maha Raja's College. The difficulty of accommodation had been adequately met. Still, there remained a large number of students for College admission. The long-standing request of the people for a Second Grade College in Central Travancore should have been complied with and it was a pity that it had not yet been done.

The Member then submitted that the controlling agency cost a good deal more than was actually required.

The staff in the Training College had not enough work. There was enough accommodation in it. All the facilities for opening a College Class (Intermediate) existed in it and, in view of the congestion in His Highness the Maha Raja's College and of the large number of students seeking admission into the College Class, it would be better to open an Intermediate Class in the Training College.

The School of Arts had been consuming a large amount of money every year. It had not done much good to the people nor was the work turned out in any way commensurate with the expenditure incurred. It was high time that Government looked into the working of the institution.

The Ayurvedic School also required attention. The system of Ayurvedic treatment was well suited to the habits of the people. The amount spent on it, *viz.*, Rs. 5,113, was very small and he hoped that the school would be improved and placed on a better footing so as to increase the volume of its usefulness.

The necessity for public libraries was being felt all the more, because a thirst for reading had already been created. It was, therefore, highly necessary to open public libraries in each Division, Taluk and *pakuthi*. Much expenditure of money would not be required, because the cost of Vernacular books was so small. The following defects of the working of the Public Library were then pointed out.

(1) The attenders should be asked to be of real service to the subscribers and others using the library in taking and giving books and journals. If, in the

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place of the present unqualified staff, English School Final men be substituted, they would be more useful.

(2) There was a rule or order of the Honorary Secretary that tickets given to subscribers and readers should be shown whenever demanded by the attenders. It was a source of great inconvenience and annoyance to the public, as it was not always possible to take such tickets with them whenever they visited the library. Those not showing such tickets were turned out. The rule or order, therefore, should be abrogated.

(3) The general behaviour of the attenders should be much better than at present.

(4) An index catalogue of all books according to subjects or authors—or even 2 or 3 copies of such a catalogue—should be placed on the table for use, as, in the absence of such catalogues, it was impossible to select books.

(5) A Reference Department was a sad desideratum.

(6) Back issues of newspapers and journals—the former for two weeks and the latter for a month—should always be available in the Reference Room.

(7) Vernacular Newspapers and Journals should be subscribed for.

(8) There should be no distinction between Members and Subscribers.

(9) The selection of books included at present 90 per cent of fiction of temporary interest which was undesirable. A Suggestion Book should be maintained in the Subscribers' Room.

(10) The subscription should be low, if the library should be availed of by all poor people anxious to be benefited by it.

(11) The payment of advance deposits insisted on by the rules should be stopped, the guarantee of a well-known citizen in writing for the safety of books taken out being ample security.

The Member then proceeded to speak about the proposal for a University for the State.

[The Dewan enquired of the Member whether he wanted to deal with the subject in view of the fact that a Committee appointed by Government was deliberating on the question and whether it would not be better to defer his remarks till the publication of the Report of the Committee].

The Member submitted that, as it was an important question in which there was a wide difference of opinion, he would like to make a few observations based on the opinions of others also whom he had consulted. The question was whether a University was really necessary. The bulk of the people and several newspapers in the land were not for it.

Dewan.—Government appointed the Committee as there was a general desire on the part of the public as judged from the representations made at the Assembly and repeated at several public meetings and in newspaper articles and also in private interviews with important persons. However, the work of the Committee is to report on the necessity or otherwise of a University. The Government were not committed to any definite view on the subject one way or the other.

The Member, in continuing, submitted the following:—

(1) The Madras University had been doing very good work and, if there were any difficulties regarding examination centres, they had all been removed.

(2) Travancore with its natural and racial barriers had no free intercourse with the outside world, the only two forces preventing its entire isolation being the influence of the British Government and of the Madras University.

(3) A Travancore University would make the people self-centred and unprogressive and would become rigid and narrow in its scope and work.

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(4) It would tend to deteriorate the knowledge which its votaries might obtain.

(5) It would be impossible to get, as lecturers and professors, men of that high degree of culture which ought to be the chief qualification and the guiding principle of selection.

(6) If there was any difficulty in getting men from Travancore trained in the British Indian Universities, the matter had only to be placed before the British Government. Such a serious disability would be removed at once, as the policy of the Government of India was to open more Provincial Universities.

(7) Science and culture were the same throughout the world and it did not require a separate University to study the economic and industrial condition of the State.

(9) The cost involved was great. In view of the refusal of Government to render any financial aid either to the proposed Technological Institute in celebration of His Highness the Maharaja's *Shashtyabdapurthi* or to the Second Grade Arts College the people were ready to start in Central Travancore, the Member was at a loss to see how a colossal expenditure could be justified on the University.

(10) The proposal was a premature one in the present condition of the State.

In conclusion, the Member objected to the importation of foreigners for offices for which there were qualified men in the State and contended that such a policy was inconsistent with the high literary enlightenment and civilization in the State.

Mr. C. J. Verghese B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Alleppey) spoke at length about the loss of health and the poor physique of the present day graduates and observed that the best way of safe-guarding efficient citizenship was to bestow a watchful eye on the health and strength of our school-going population. A large number of the school-children suffered from defects and ailments which were either neglected or were undetected. In many cases, they were ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-developed. Those who remained without a noon-day meal and were subject to the usual strain of work deserved the attention of the school authorities. The present mode of dress insisted on resulted in uncleanliness in the school-children. Those who suffered from defective eyesight were also large. To remedy these and other defects a medical inspection of school-children should be held. Though there was a provision in the Education Code for a medical examination of school-children, nothing was being done. Steps should, therefore, be taken to see that a medical examination was conducted and the result concerning each pupil communicated to the parent or guardian. The second point dealt with by the Member was about the syllabus of studies and the excessive strain it imposed on the boys and girls. It made an intelligent assimilation of what was imparted impossible. Thirdly, there should be facilities afforded for out-door games by opening play-grounds and by the levy of a small fee for creating interest in recreation. Fourthly, the grants-in-aid should be increased. As long as the conditions of recognition laid down by the Code were insisted on and continued to be fulfilled, there could not be any distinction between Departmental and Private Schools in the matter of efficiency. The striking fact was that while, in the case of Departmental Schools, the cost per pupil had been increasing, that in the case of Private Schools showed a marked decrease till 1090. The Member then gave a few figures for 1091 and 1092 to show that Private Schools received comparatively less contribution from Government for carrying out more than half the work of Secondary education. The remedy proposed was the award of capitation grant. Lastly, the Member advocated a change in the present system of awarding scholarships and fee concessions and requested that Managers might be given greater freedom to make provision for free scholarships in the grants allotted to Private Schools.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappila (Member, Nominated) agreed with Mr. Verghese in all that he said and observed that an examination of the results of the past 10 years would show that the Departmental Schools could not compete with aided

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schools. The present method of calculating the grant was unsatisfactory and the institution of capitation grant was the only remedy. The following defects were then pointed out :—

(1) Permission to open Lower Grade English schools should be more freely given. Several applications had been made for starting such schools. The objection raised was that the Manager should possess the necessary qualification. A rich man might start a school and ask a graduate to manage it. That should be allowed.

(2) Prior to the recent order permitting employment of under-graduates in English schools, several School Final men had taken up service in Vernacular schools. It should be ruled that all future vacancies in English schools should be recruited by such men from the Vernacular schools until all of them were drafted to the English schools. The pay and prospects of Head Masters of Vernacular schools should be improved.

(3) The pay of Drawing and Drill Masters in Vernacular schools should be increased. They were getting Rs. 15 and Rs. 10, while those in English schools were drawing a higher pay with a progressive scale. In the case of some School Final men who were drawing till recently Rs. 15 to Rs. 20, their pay was reduced to Rs. 15. Their pay was also in arrears. In reply to the Dewan's query, the Member said that, even though orders had been issued by Government, the arrears had not yet been paid in all cases.

(4) When sanction was given to raise the standard of a particular school, a similar sanction should be granted for the purchase of apparatus, appliances, etc., which was not done now. That caused trouble.

(5) In regard to transfer certificates, Government had fixed a separate time limit for Departmental schools. That did not apply to aided schools. In the case of aided schools, the application should be made within one week after the re-opening of the schools, but the time limit in the Departmental schools was one week before the closing of the schools. It was only when the results were known that the pupils desired to apply for transfer. The Managers of aided schools had peremptory orders to publish the results on the re-opening day.

Dewan.—The Director says that the object of such an arrangement in the Departmental schools is to obtain information before the re-opening as to the number of students that may be expected in the different classes and to arrange for the posting of the necessary teachers.

Member.—The same principle should be made applicable to aided schools also.

Dewan.—I do not think that there is any objection to extending the same principle to the aided schools. However, this will be looked into.

(6) With regard to the dress to be worn by the pupils, the Department should not insist upon coats and caps. A shirt should be quite enough. A rule prescribing the minimum decent dress should be issued. The Member then presented a memorial on the subject signed by several Members of the Assembly.

(7) At Thiruvalla, there was a Commercial Class attached to Class VIII and there was also a Commercial Instructor. He understood that the Government had not sanctioned the appointment of a Commercial Instructor and that he had not drawn his pay for several months. The matter should be looked into and his appointment should be sanctioned early.

(8) Juvenile smoking had become common. The habit should be put a stop to by law. Any one selling cigarettes to a pupil under 15 years of age and any pupil, under 15 years of age, found smoking, should both be punished.

(9) The results of the School Leaving examination should be published earlier than at present to enable the candidates for Class VIII to re-join schools in time.

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(10) There were now no text-books for Class VIII and teaching in the different schools was not uniform. A Board consisting of the Head Masters and teachers should be formed to prescribe text-books and to decide on the course of instruction.

(11) An Assistant should be appointed in Training Schools for supervision work, as the Head Master, who had charge of the Higher Grade Vernacular School also, found little time to devote to supervision.

(12) Text-books should not be sold to schoolmasters only, but should be available to all persons.

(13) In regard to the selection of text-books for Girls' schools, the Committee composed of the Lady Principal and the Inspectress of Girls' Schools should be strengthened by the addition of Head Masters or Head Mistresses of Girls' schools.

(14) Qualified Bhagavathars should be appointed in Girls' schools, or the teaching of music should be stopped. An examination should also be instituted for Bhagavathars and only passed men should be appointed.

Dewan.—With regard to the transfer of under-graduate teachers in Vernacular schools to English schools, the Member's proposal appears to be reasonable and will be considered. A report will be called for from the Director about the Commercial Instructor at Thiruvalla. The other suggestions are noted.

Mr. V. S. Krishna Pillai (Member, Thiruvalla Taluk) urged the following:—

(1) The number of students for College admission was increasing year by year. Though the aided Colleges gave admission to those who sought admission into them, the Principal of His Highness the Maha Raja's College was not sympathetic in that matter. The number of those who got College admission was very limited.

(2) A Natural History Chair should be established and the Philosophy Chair revived. A large number of Travancore students had to go outside the State for prosecuting their studies, because they had no facilities to continue their College education in Trivandrum in those two subjects.

(3) The promotion examination was unnecessarily severe in H. H. the Maha Raja's College. Last year 28 out of 78 and 61 out of 143 were retained in the Junior Intermediate and Junior B. A. classes respectively.

(4) Unnecessary restrictions were being placed on College students in the matter of selecting their optional subjects.

(5) The Grant-in-aid Code was not as favourable to private institutions as the Madras Presidency Code and should be revised in several respects. The rules in the Code were being nullified by the issue of circulars which worked hardship on Private School Managers.

(6) Assistant Masters in Private Schools also should be appointed Superintendents for the examinations conducted by Government.

(7) One year's course in Class IV should be considered as sufficient qualification for admission into the Preparatory Class and passing the examination in Class IV should not be insisted on.

Mr. K. M. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) said that the use of cigars, tobacco, etc., by juvenile school-children should be stopped by law. He advocated the promotion of industrial education and the establishment of manufactories where such articles of daily use as soap, jam, jelly, biscuits, etc., could be made. Such industries were all the more necessary as they would afford employment for the large number of School Final men at present unemployed.

Dewan.—There is a departmental circular at present prohibiting the use of cigars by school-children. It has probably not had the desired effect. The Government will consider what measures could be adopted to effectively check this growing evil. A penalty will be necessary not only for the erring school-children but also for the adults who encourage the habit in them.

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Mr. M. F. Augustine (Member, Nominated) made the following suggestions:—

(1) Religious and moral instruction should be given in schools. For that purpose, educational institutions should be divided into Neutral and Denominational schools. In the first set of schools, moral instruction alone should be given, while, in the second class of schools, both religious and moral instruction might be imparted.

(2) Text-books should not be very difficult for the classes for which they were intended.

(3) Text-books should not be changed every year, as frequent changes meant additional cost. Text-books might be prescribed for five years.

(4) The use of cigar or tobacco in any form by school-boys should be prohibited by law.

(5) The Roman Catholics living along the coast should be given the half-fee concession under the Education Code.

Mr. S. Padmanabha Panikkar (Member, Nominated) represented the following:—

(1) Ezhava girls should be more largely admitted into all schools.

(2) The Deputy Director of Public Instruction should have complete control over all Vernacular schools and also over classes up to Form III in English schools.

(3) Moral lessons should be taught in schools intended for the depressed classes, the text-books for the same being selected by a Board in which the authors of such books should also be included. The copy-right of such books should be purchased by Government.

Mr. K. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) urged the need for more English schools. There were now only 13 taluks having English High Schools. The number should be multiplied so that each taluk might have a High School with a number of feeder Lower Grade English schools around it. Whenever applications were made by people to open English schools, they should, as far as possible, be granted. If that could not be done, Government should open such schools.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Members are noted for consideration.

113. Reorganization of the present system of Vernacular Education on an economic and industrial basis.

Mr. P. V. Verghese B. A., L. T. (Member, Nominated) said that the indigenous system of education in Travancore, uninfluenced by Western methods, was intensely practical and that it was based on national needs suited to the then existing conditions and was thoroughly utilitarian. It had a well-defined ideal which was realized. But the slavish copying from Western models knocked the bottom out of the system with the result that a showy unpractical system had been adopted. It must be remembered that it was the poorer pupils that resorted to Vernacular education. By following the present method of public education, new hopes and new aspirations had been created which, it had now been discovered, could not be satisfied. The net result was the large number of the unemployed who, after their school career, found that there was no demand for them and thought it *infra dig* to follow the industrial line. Travancore was a land of immense possibilities. The planting industry in which the Europeans were pioneers was now being taken up by Travancoreans with considerable benefit which only showed that they wanted proper guidance to exploit any new industry. In Japan, no foreigner was allowed to acquire any lands permanently while, in Travancore, the natives were being elbowed out. The system of education must be such as to enable its recipients to develop to the full the country's national resources on the most up-to-date lines. Any system adopted must first bring home to the minds of the pupils the dignity and usefulness of manual labour. The school curriculam should have a practical side such as agricultural work or school gardening. The Member concluded by saying that the system of Vernacular education in the State should be re-organised on an industrial and economic basis.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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